

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Miscellaneous Information

PLACE 25X1A  
ACQUIRED

DATE OF 25X1C  
INFO.

DATE DISTR. 4 JAN. 52

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. Black Market Prices:

a. In October 1951 prices for various goods on the Polish black market were given as follows:

- 1). Pair of nylons: 150-180 zloty.
- 2). Scarves (selling in West Berlin for 1.90 to 3.00 DM West): 120-180 zloty.
- 3). Silk material: 300-700 zloty per meter, according to quality.
- 4). Wool: 700-800 zloty per kilogram.
- 5). Leather in sufficient quantity for one pair of shoes: 450-550 zloty.
- 6). Gold: Possession of gold in bulk is prohibited by law. If contained in such articles as rings, it can be officially and legally sold at 90-110 zloty per gram, 14 to 18 carat. Sales over 1,000 zloty are registered, and the seller must prove ownership of the article being sold.

b. To understand the above values, it should be recalled that the official value of zloty against the U.S. dollar is 4.2 zloty per dollar. The unofficial rate is 35-42 zloty per dollar, and dealings in dollars on the free market are punishable by long prison sentences. Monthly wages normally earned by Polish workers are also pertinent to an understanding of the black market prices. Typical wage scales are given below:

- 1). Unskilled laborer: 230 zloty.
- 2). Typist: 350-450 zloty.
- 3). Elementary school teacher: 400-500 zloty.

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- 4). High school and university teachers: 550-650 zloty.
- 5). Miner: 600-800 zloty.
- 6). Mechanical engineer: 700-1,000 zloty.
- 7). Construction engineer: 1,000-1,500 zloty.
- 8). Physician: 1,500-2,000 zloty.

2. Popularity estimate of Refugee Leadership:

A recent refugee, interested in Polish political trends, estimates that the most popular political party in Poland is Mikolajczyk's Peasant Party. Other parties would follow in this order: SD - Bielecki, PPS (Socialist Party) - Popiel, and SD (Democratic Party). The same source estimates that the most esteemed Polish refugees are (in order listed): General Anders, Mikolajczyk, Bielecki and Popiel.

3. Uranium Mine at Kowary:

The Soviets are reportedly building up facilities for the mining of uranium ore in Kowary, Polish Silesia. Construction of buildings is being done by the Poznan "Prezedsieborstwo Budowlane - Kurawia".

4. Treatment of Germans in Silesia:

Two German-language elementary schools have been opened in Silesia, one at Walbrzych and one at Nowa Ruda. In these schools, Polish is taught only as a foreign language.\*

25X1A \* Comment: This information is to be contrasted with the fact that until a year ago the Germans in Silesia were careful not to speak German openly on the streets because of the fear that they might be attacked by the Poles.

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